

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

June 20, 2003

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I know you share my strong support for AmeriCorps and national service. Yet we are facing a crisis that threatens the future of the program, the volunteers – and communities across the nation. Yesterday the Senate took action to stabilize this program. But your quick intervention is necessary. Support for AmeriCorps is bipartisan, and it needs Presidential leadership to get it on course. I hope you will take the following steps to strengthen AmeriCorps for the future:

- Request Supplemental Funding -- Without additional funding this year, AmeriCorps will not be able to support more than 50,000 volunteers. This includes the 20,000 that the Corporation overenrolled last year. AmeriCorps needs your leadership to request supplemental funding to prevent real cuts this year.
- Fill Vacancies on the Board of Directors -- The Corporation's Board of Directors has important oversight responsibilities, and is stepping up to meet the current challenges. Yet the Board has been functioning without full membership for too long. Currently, there are nine Board members, with six vacancies. I hope you will act quickly to fill the vacancies and work to move those nominations through the Senate.
- Appoint Strong Leadership -- I have asked the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer to submit his resignation to you. I hope you will appoint a new leadership team with the management skills necessary to restore confidence in the Corporation's abilities to make a real difference to our volunteers – and in our communities. The Corporation's mismanagement and lack of responsible accounting standards will result in fewer new volunteers this year, and we need leaders at the Corporation who understand that there are costs to mistakes of that magnitude.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. I look forward to working with you to strengthen AmeriCorps for the future.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent
Agencies